Sluggish development of PMGSY

1008. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sluggish development of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of problems being faced by Government for such slow process of road development in the country; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for enhancing rural road connectivity within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), projects valued at Rs. 42582.19 crore to connect 60556 habitations having 2,16,950.58 km road length have been approved and Rs. 21210.91 crore released. 33041 habitations have been provided connectivity, 111461.04 km of road length has been constructed. Expenditure incurred is Rs. 19040.95 crore. In some of the States the pace of implementation of Programme is slow because of the following reasons:

* Constraint of qualified and trained manpower.
* Administrative delays including late award of projects.
* Inadequate capacity of the Programme Implementing Units due to the smaller work load being handled by them earlier.
* A long rainy season.
* Non availability of construction materials such as cement, steel, bitumen, machinery, locally.
* Long travel distances from one part to another within the State and also lack of excess discourages resources to reach these areas.
* Non availability of land or the land falling under forest area.

Steps have been taken to improve the pace of implementation of the Programme through enhanced allocation of funds, training of field staff

including contractor's staff, providing interest free advance for procurement of required plants and machinery, continuous and regular monitoring 6f the programme.

Uneven development of network under PMGSY

1009. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a road network of over 33 lakh kms., and its distribution is highly uneven, as certain parts of the country boast of modern expressways, there are other parts that are still inaccessible throughout the year;

(b) whether progress report of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) shows that there has been no significant progress in new road connectivity under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take" to improve India's road network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Rural road is a State subject. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a special intervention by the Central Government to provide connectivity by way of an all weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 and above [250+population size in Hill States, Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule V) Areas]. About 1,72,787 habitations are to be connected and total length to be covered is 3,73,145 km. at a cost of about Rs. 1,32,000 crore. Under Bharat Nirman, Government has set a goal to provide connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all weather road by 2009. So far, projects valued at Rs. 42582.19 crore to connect 60556 habitations having 2,16,950.58 km. road length has been approved and Rs. 21210.91 crore has been released. 33041 habitations have been provided connectivity and construction of 111461.04 km. of road has been completed. A sum of Rs. 19040.95 crore has been spent so far under the programme.